

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, America was founded on the principle that everyone should get a shot at the American Dream. But with so much unemployment, so many mortgages underwater, so many people struggling just to get by, it's not surprising that half of all Americans think the American Dream is dead.

This Congress should be making job creation our top priority. But what has the majority in the House done to create jobs? Nothing.

What's even worse, every job proposal that President Obama has sent to this House has been met with a resounding "no." And what's their alternative? To do nothing.

Democrats have been working to pass legislation to grow this economy and create new jobs. After 42 weeks of doing nothing, it's time for the Republican majority to join us in giving the American people the jobs they need and deserve.

HOUSE REPUBLICAN JOBS PLAN

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, our colleagues on the other side of the aisle are welcome to their own opinions but not welcome to create the facts.

When the Democrats took over the Congress 4 years ago, almost 5 years ago now, the unemployment rate was 4.5 percent. It went to over 9 percent since they were in control.

The reason the President's so-called jobs bill has not been passed in this House is because the Democrats did not support it. It was introduced by request.

What Republicans have done, though, is focus on the task of creating jobs since day one of this session. And I'm glad that President Obama's talking about it too. We will work with the President when he comes up with ideas that work. But so far his proposals have not worked. Notice the stimulus bill that he asked us to pass that would not raise unemployment above 8 percent.

He wants to raise taxes on job creators, and all it will do is destroy private sector jobs.

A SIMPLE JOBS PLAN

(Mrs. MALONEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to propose a plan that is as simple as one, two, three.

Number one is getting back to basics and helping to create badly needed jobs. This economy will not grow unless we stimulate private sector job growth. It's time to drop the partisan bickering and focus on creating jobs and creating them now. Pass the President's jobs bill.

Number two is building up our infrastructure. Work on our roads and

trains is desperately needed to help America compete, and this badly needed repair work creates jobs that cannot be outsourced. We need to pass the transportation bill now.

Number three is embracing a bold and balanced vision and crafting a true bipartisan agreement in the super committee, one that cuts our deficits by trillions, invests and raises revenues, and creates jobs. No one is pretending it will be easy, but if we get back to basics it could be as easy as one, two, three.

MAIN STREET BANK CLOSES THREE BRANCHES

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, last week I met with over a dozen community bankers in my congressional district. They are concerned for "the tsunami of regulations" coming out of Washington, D.C.

Now, these are not Wall Street bankers, these are small town bankers. They told me, "Washington regulators have their feet on the throats of small community banks who did not cause this economic downturn."

The real life consequences of Dodd-Frank on our community banks impact our local small businesses, our communities' job creators. The reason is simple: Paying more money to comply with complicated, costly, meaningless regulations means fewer loans out the door for small businesses.

Higher costs for compliance is why Main Street Bank in Kingwood, Texas will close three branches this week. It simply costs too much money to stay in the community banking business these days.

When community banks close there are fewer opportunities for small business owners to access capital. I often hear small business owners say they can't get loans. This is why. These are the real consequences of burdensome, costly, ineffective Federal regulations.

And that's just the way it is.

□ 1230

REPUBLICANS' REFUSAL TO ACT ON AMERICAN JOBS ACT

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because it has been nearly 11 months that this Republican-led House of Representatives has pursued a no-jobs agenda and simply complains about the protections that the American citizens receive.

The American Jobs Act will put teachers, firefighters, police officers, and construction workers back on the job; it will create job opportunities for returning American veterans; it will cut taxes and create financial growth

incentives for American businesses as well as provide much-needed job training and hiring programs for Americans that are currently looking for work.

Many provisions of the American Jobs Act have been strongly supported by Republicans in the past, but now, suddenly, they are against these ideas because they are being proposed by a Democratic President. This is the opposite of negotiation and compromise, and the American people do not have the patience for these antics instead of action.

I urge both parties of this House to work together and pass the American Jobs Act for the American people.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTOR WITHHOLDING REPEAL ACT

(Mr. YODER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today again in support of small business owners and builders all across the United States who will be harmed by a new tax withholding requirement by the Federal Government.

With unemployment at 9.1 percent and holding, we desperately need to come together to do all that we can to get our economy growing. But our economic recovery will not come from government growth. It will come from entrepreneurs, innovators, and small business owners who take risk, expand, hire new workers and create economic growth the old-fashioned way—in the private sector through hard work and free enterprise.

The imposition of a 3 percent withholding tax increase is the cost of doing business for our small business owners and therefore hurts job growth and the economic recovery. We cannot create jobs while punishing job creators. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 674, legislation that will remove this burdensome new tax requirement on our small businesses.

Mr. Speaker, we must come together as a Congress and do all that we can to promote legislation like this that will remove barriers to economic growth and get America back to work again.

FIRST RESPONDERS

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, just this past week, the country of Turkey, an ally of ours, experienced a devastating earthquake. Nearly 400 people, they believe, have died, and there's been great damage to the countryside. We've seen these disasters now in Japan and South America and other places. We've seen them in our country, too. We had problems last year.

Who comes to the aid of the people in Turkey whom we look out for as well and are concerned about? First responders, policemen, and firepeople.

My city of Memphis, Tennessee, lies on the New Madrid fault, the most likely place in our country to have a major earthquake. When that event occurs, I want to have adequate policemen and firemen there to help our citizens. We can have them with the Jobs Act, have them this year when we don't know whether it will occur or not.

First responders are so important to the future of America, and passing the Jobs Act will guarantee that we will have security when a natural disaster occurs. We need to keep policemen and firemen employed.

DOWN SYNDROME AWARENESS MONTH

(Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform my colleagues that October is Down Syndrome Awareness Month. There are over 400,000 Americans who are living with an extra 21st chromosome, and my life has been blessed by one of them—our son, Cole.

As cochair of the Congressional Down Syndrome Caucus, every day is a chance to raise awareness about this condition—advocating for Cole and those other 400,000 Americans helping them to live the American Dream.

Today the bipartisan Down Syndrome Caucus is hosting a special briefing on Capitol Hill. We're bringing in over half a dozen experts on how we can work together to improve medical research, break down barriers and expand opportunities for those who have Down syndrome and many others who could be positively impacted.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to say thank you to the countless individuals in the disabilities community who have reached out to me and my family. I'm forever grateful for your work to make America a better place for my family and all Americans.

JOBS LEGISLATION

(Mr. HIMES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, several weeks ago a railroad bridge over the Norwalk River in my district seized, causing delay and economic damage along the New York-Boston corridor, an artery for jobs, for economic prosperity, and for growth. It turns out that this is true around the country.

The American Society of Engineers grades our infrastructure a D. Make no mistake. We are going to fix this because the American people are not going to tolerate bridges that fall down and roads that crumble.

Meanwhile, thousands of engineers, electricians, and carpenters are out of work. Do you see the connection between out-of-work construction people

and a desperate need to rebuild our infrastructure? All that is missing is for the Republican majority to pass a jobs bill which funds the investment in our infrastructure that will lead to economic prosperity and to jobs now.

Every day that goes by in this Chamber without an infrastructure bill is a vote against safety and against jobs for people who desperately need them.

FILIPINO HISTORY MONTH

(Ms. HANABUSA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HANABUSA. Mr. Speaker, Mabuhay.

We take time this month to recognize the contributions of Filipino Americans to the growth of our Nation. The first wave of migrants came from the Philippines to Hawaii when we were still a territory. Today, they number the largest ethnic group in the State, and they total almost 1.5 million in the State of California.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we have not kept our promises to the Filipino Americans. In World War II, we drafted about 200,000 of them with the promise—the promise—that they will have citizenship and benefits. And in 1946, the Congress rescinded that promise.

Today, with the stimulus package in 2009, we finally authorized the payment of some of the benefits to 30,000 who are remaining—30,000—but we have still failed to do what they wanted the most, which is the reunification of their families. Their stories and others' we will hear through this month.

Mr. Speaker, please join with me in saying to them, "Salamat po," thank you for what you have done for this Nation.

JOB CREATION

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, our national unemployment rate is 9.1 percent. Yet for 42 weeks, the Republican leadership has ignored the need for a strong jobs agenda and has instead pushed an agenda to reduce workplace protections, and they have gone to weaken our economy. Unfortunately, the only jobs that will result from the Republican agenda are those vacated by victims of workplace injuries and possible deaths due to watered-down regulations. This is not responsible and only hampers our economic growth.

Democrats acknowledge that small businesses are responsible for nearly 70 percent of job creation. As a result, we have proposed the American Jobs Act and the Make it in America Act to support small businesses, create jobs, and strengthen our economy.

The American Jobs Act proposal would create nearly 300,000 education jobs, keep thousands of police and firemen on the job, cut the payroll tax in

half, and put more money in the pockets of Americans immediately without adding a dime to the deficit.

The Make It In America proposal would close tax loopholes that encourage outsourcing of U.S. jobs overseas and establish incentives for creating American clean energy jobs.

I ask my colleagues to abandon their misguided agenda and support those measures that will strengthen our country for all.

CURRENCY MANIPULATION

(Mr. RYAN of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, last year we passed a bill in this House with 350 votes—99 Republicans—to address the issue of currency manipulation around the world, primarily China. Unfair trade practices in China have cost America 2.8 million jobs in the last 10 years—1.9 million of those, manufacturing.

If we have the strength in this body, in the House of Representatives, to take on the Chinese, we can have a major jobs package right here in the United States and put small and medium-sized manufacturers on a level playing field, put average workers back to work and reclaim the mantle of manufacturing in the United States. But this House has denied us the opportunity to take on the Chinese. The Senate passed it with over 60 votes just a week or 2 ago. Last year, we passed it in this House, 350 votes—99 Republicans.

We cannot be appeasers to the Chinese. We need to take them on, drive that investment back into the United States, and reclaim the mantle of manufacturing around the world.

□ 1240

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Natural Resources:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, October 4, 2011.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

MR. SPEAKER: Today, I hereby resign my position with the House Committee on Natural Resources.

It has been an honor to serve as a Member of the Committee on Natural Resources, and I have been proud to work with my colleagues to find solutions to our nation's energy crisis. I look forward to continuing to represent the people of the 3d Congressional District of Tennessee.

I appreciate the opportunity to have served on the House Committee on Natural Resources, and I look forward to working with all of you in the future.

Sincerely,

CHUCK FLEISCHMANN,
Member of Congress.